रेल मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री माधवराव सिंधिया) : (क) से (ग) सूचना इक्ट्ठी की जा रही और सभा पटल पर रख दी जायेगी।

Malpractices in the Manufacture and marketing of Drugs

936. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the working of the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, dealing with the manufacture and marketing of spurious drugs, the medicine licensing system and also the effectiveness or otherwise of the various agencies/authorities responsible for the inspection/testing of the manufactured drugs in view of the recent killer drug tragedy in Tata Memorial Hospital and earlier deaths due to adulterated drugs in Bombay's J. J. Group of Hospitals and in other hospitals in various parts of the country, so as to ensure maintenance of standard quality and to check malpractices; and

(b) if so, what has been the outcome thereof, stating the steps contemplated by Government to make the law more stringent and to plug the loopholes, if any, in the working of various agencies, to make them effective instruments in the production and marketing of quality drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) The enforcement of Drugs and Cosmetics Act is the responsibility of State Governments. A statutory body viz. Drugs Consultative Committee having representatives of all the State Governments and the Central Governments advises the Central Government and all the State Governments on matters relating to uniform administration of the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

The Act was amended in 1982 giving a separate definition of spurious drugs. The maximum punishment was enhanced to life imprisonment in cases of drugs which on use were likely to cause death or grievous hurt. The Drugs and Cosmetics Act was also amended in 1986 empowering a purchaser of a drug or cosmetic to enable to get a sample of a drug tested and to launch prosecution for violations of provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules.

Workshop on the Status of widows and destitute women in India

937. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a three day workshop was held in Delhi in April, 1988 on 'Status of Widows and destitute women in India'; and

(b) if so, what are the recommendations of the workshop and Government's reaction thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is attached herewith (*See* below). As for Government's reaction, the detailed report of the workshop is awaited

Statement

1. That a thorough inquiry should be instituted by the Central Government into the "poor state of affairs prevailing in the widows" Ashrams in the country, especially at Brindavan, Varanasi and Puri.

2. As majority of the widows at Banaras and Mathura are from Bengal, we urge the West Bengal government to take effective steps to prevent forced migration of the destitute women and widows to the holy places for refuge.